

**Draft Summary of the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
February 27, 2003**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group on February 27, 2003 in Oroville.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Flip Chart Notes
Attachment 4	JPA Public Meeting Summary: Enhancing Recreational and Economic Values of the Lake Oroville Complex
Attachment 5	Recreation Modeling for the Oroville Relicensing Project
Attachment 6	Phase 1 Background Report: Economic and Fiscal Conditions for the Oroville Relicensing Project
Attachment 7	Progress Tracking Report: Recreation and Socioeconomic Studies

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations and the desired outcomes of the meeting were discussed. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Meeting flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3.

Action Items – January 16, 2003 Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group Meeting

A summary of the January 16, 2003 Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

Action Item #R54:	Use trails data from logbooks in SP-R9.
Status:	DWR received logbooks from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), which will be provided to the consulting team for use in SP-R9.
Action Item #R55:	Distribute recreation study schedule to Work Group.
Status:	The Facilitator distributed the recreation study schedule received from John Bass (Harza/EDAW) to the Work Group via e-mail.
Action Item #R56:	Clarify with DPR the status of winterizing floating campsites and road upgrades.
Status:	The Facilitator spoke with Steve Feazel (DPR) about the status of the floating campsites and road upgrades. Steve explained the difficulty of winterizing the floating campsites, including potential instability and safety issues. He also noted the need to perform maintenance on these campsites during the winter, which requires taking them out of use. There is also some concern with locating enough suitable coves for anchoring the floating campsites that would not interfere with nesting bald eagles. Visitors can use the floating campsites not undergoing maintenance during the winter and DPR has begun upgrading the sanitation

facilities to require less frequent pumping. No information was provided on the road upgrades but DWR will review interim projects for road upgrade tasks and update the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group.

Action Item #R57:

Status:

Follow-up on status of the land acquisition projects.

The Facilitator reviewed actions taken by the Land Use, Land Management, and Aesthetics (LULMA) Work Group after these projects were passed to them for consideration. At previous LULMA meetings, it was determined that it was premature to proceed with land acquisition projects because future actions and locations are still unknown. One participant questioned rumors that recreation lands at Foreman Creek are being given away to Native American Tribes through secret negotiations. DWR responded that no secret deals have been made to give land to the Tribes and will provide a more detailed response at the next meeting.

Plenary Group Activities Update

The Plenary Group update included a summary of the Process Task Force actions. This Task Force has three tasks: (1) develop PM&E or resource action information forms; (2) develop evaluation criteria; and (3) develop additional language for the process protocols necessary to address settlement negotiation. There are reportedly some concerns among Plenary participants that decisions related to future PM&Es are being made outside of the Task Force process and evaluation should take place within the work groups. The Task Force completed the information form template and the Plenary Group approved it for distribution and use by stakeholders.

Update on JPA Public Meeting

Pete Dangermond, representing the JPA, presented the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group with an update of the February 13th public meeting organized by the JPA to solicit community input on potential future PM&E measures. To date, the JPA consultant has organized and collected PM&E ideas, met with JPA member agencies, and worked with the JPA on the public meeting to gather suggestions and comments from members of the public. A formal PM&E package is being developed for approval and recommendation by the JPA. Pete presented the Work Group the same PowerPoint presentation that was shown at the February 13th public meeting (Attachment 4).

Since the PM&E ideas have been proposed before study results are available, the JPA was unable to consider the study data developed by the collaborative. The JPA confirmed that they intend to consider study results and data when available.

TRT Task Force Update

Tom Wegge with TCW Economics announced that the TRT Task Force met earlier in the day to review the Phase One Background Report. Tom presented two updates: the first was a report on recreation modeling for the Oroville Relicensing Project and, the second was a summary of the socioeconomics background report being prepared to support SP-R18 and R19. Both presentations are included in this summary as Attachment 5 and 6, respectively.

Study Plan Implementation Update

EDAW study leads provided updates on the 19 recreation/socioeconomic studies utilizing the DWR progress tracking report form (see Attachment 7). Specific details on each of the studies can be found in Attachment 7.

Study Plan R7 Logistics / Adjustments

Jim Vogel with EDAW spoke about the logistics associated with counting boats as part of SP-R7. Targets for the total number of boat count surveys targeted in the study plan have not been met to date. Several actions are taking place to attain these targets, including scheduling of additional survey dates through August of this year and using aerial photographs. The Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group agreed that a revised target of 37 total surveys instead of the original target number of 43 described in SP-R7 was adequate given the distribution of counts on weekends and holidays.

Update on Trails Meeting

Dan Petersen with DWR provided a summary of the public meeting held by DWR on the trail issue in the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area (LOSRA), specifically the change in trail use policy by DPR to multiple use under the terms of the existing license. The meeting was recommended by FERC. DWR is still in the process of receiving public comments on the issue, and will act to either request that DPR restore the pre-2002 status of the trails or request an amendment of the current license from FERC (after evaluating the information gathered). No environmental compliance action under CEQA/NEPA is required for this process. A report to FERC is due April 1, 2003. Several Work Group participants questioned whether this is an existing trail use issue or if FERC is seeking a new trails plan. This is an existing license issue however trail use will be evaluated during the collaborative process and included in the recreation management plan for the new license term. Related interim projects (i.e., parallel mountain bike trail) will be discussed and evaluated within the context of the new license.

Other

The Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group was informed that the completed Interim Study Report was available upon request in hard copy or electronic format (CD); it can also be e-mailed. The completed survey forms are not in the reports, but the survey templates are included. Based on concerns regarding how the data are being summarized, specifically non-trail users answering trail-related questions, one participant inquired whether the raw data that feed into the study reports are available to participants. The consultant team informed the participants that copies of completed survey forms are retained and may be viewed if an appointment is made.

Another concern expressed by the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group is that surveys could not be implemented at certain areas because of low water levels; many of these areas were still sampled, particularly areas with shoreline use. A related concern is that the data collected will represent low-water years, thereby under-estimating actual visitation. These conditions were noted in the Interim Report.

In terms of future updates, the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group discussed the desirability of providing only information related to stops, starts, or changes to the implementation plans associated with each of the 19 study plans. The Work Group also suggested using bullet points in future interim reports to summarize and track information.

Next Steps

The Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group agreed on the following meeting date/time:

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2003
Time: 6:00 to 10:00 PM
Location: Kelly Ridge Meeting Room

Agreements Made

The Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group agreed that a revised target of 37 total surveys instead of the original target number of 43 boat count surveys described in SP-R7 was adequate given the distribution of counts on weekends and holidays.

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

Action Item #R58: Provide status of property "give-away" to Native American tribes, specifically land at Foreman Creek.

Responsible: DWR
Due Date: March 27, 2003

Action Item #R59: Follow-up report on road upgrades (interim projects).

Responsible: DWR
Due Date: March 27, 2003

Action Item #R60: Provide update on Riverbend Park

Responsible: Bob Sharkey, Feather River Recreation and Parks District
Due Date: March 27, 2003